

Pitman 1966) breed in September, October and November in the areas occupied by the Long-tailed Starling they must also find feeding easy at this time and hence the occurrence of the complete moult of *L. mevesii* at that time. The difference in breeding season may be due to different food preferences or to some avoidance of competition either for food or nest sites.

During the winter there is a decline in the number of insects in the areas where it lives (K. E. Cackett *in litt.*) so it may well be that there would not be sufficient food to support fledglings and complete moults simultaneously. Whistler (1940) describes a very similar breeding and moult regime in *Carduelis spinoides* Vigors the Black-headed or Himalayan Greenfinch whose general ecology as a submontane seed eater (Whistler 1928) appears to have nothing in common with a fruit and insect eating starling of the arid lowlands.

I am obliged to Messrs. C. W. Benson, M. P. Stuart Irwin and M. A. Traylor for criticising the draft of this paper.

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Postscript: Since drafting the above text an interesting breeding record has come to hand. Mrs. H. R. Gillett of Chipinda Pools, Lundi R., Rhodesia, had a pair of Long-tailed Starlings visit her garden between 23rd April and 2nd May with the juvenile *Clamator* cuckoo they were looking after. She thought the species was *C. jacobinus* (Boddaert) but it is *C. glandarius* (L.) which parasitizes starlings in southern Africa.

A new subspecies of the Ruby-cheek (*Anthreptes singalensis*) (Gmelin) from Java

by A. HOGERWERF

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A small series of this sunbird secured on Java's most western peninsula, Ujung Kulon, does not fit into *phoenicotis* known from the remaining part of Java nor in the populations known from the surrounding regions.

When comparing equal series of six males of *phoenicotis*, *sumatrana* and *borneana*, from Java, Sumatra and Borneo respectively, it seems quite impossible to separate Sumatran and Bornean specimens on account of

any difference in tint or extent of the yellow and brown on the under surface. In *sumatrana* as well as in *borneana* the brown on chin, throat and foreneck extends to the lower chest where it blends with the yellow of the belly. In both latter subspecies, the yellow is brighter than in *phoenicotis* but only in two of the six skins the brown on throat and foreneck is darker in the latter race than in males of *sumatrana* and *borneana*. The remaining four specimens do not differ at all in this respect from representatives of both last mentioned subspecies. Though I fail to see any difference in the extent of the brownish area on the underparts between material of all these three races, there is one male from West Java in which the brown reaches as far as the abdominal region, which is not so in any other specimen before me.

On the upperparts most males are clear metallic green, but some are bluish or violet-bluish which may be individual variation without any subspecific value. There is also some individual colour difference on the sides of head and neck.

When comparing three females of *phoenicotis* with three of *sumatrana* it is evident that the differences are rather conspicuous even in this small series: the brown on throat and foreneck is rather sharply margined and that colour is darker than in *sumatrana* and—according to Boden Kloss¹—in representatives of all other subspecies, making the separation of *phoenicotis* quite acceptable. Regarding the females there are no subspecific differences in the plumage of upper surface and on the sides of head and neck.

Two juvenile females of *sumatrana* and *phoenicotis* only slightly differ: the Javan skin is a trifle darker above and yellower on the underparts.

These observations are based on material secured in 1940 or earlier. When comparing the six males obtained in Ujung Kulon with all males discussed above, we can separate them without difficulty because of the very clear greenish-yellow underparts and the large area which it covers. On account of these characters they seem closer to *koratensis* from Thailand regarding the diagnosis as published for this race. But in *koratensis* the brown and yellow on the underparts should be very sharply demarcated as in females of *phoenicotis*. This is only so in two Ujung Kulon birds, for in the remaining four the brown blends with the yellow; therefore *koratensis* and Ujung Kulon birds cannot be identical. From the fact that Boden Kloss remarked that *borneana* agrees with *interposita*, a second form known from Thailand, only differing in the brown on chin and throat, it also seems evident that our Ujung Kulon material cannot be identical with *interposita*, not even if there should be no geographical objections as is the case in *koratensis* and *internota*, still another subspecies from Thailand. Moreover in *borneana*—thus also in *interposita*—the brown reaches much further downward than in Ujung Kulon birds: the brown covers a smaller, the clear greenish-yellow a much larger area than in *sumatrana*, *borneana*, *phoenicotis* and *interposita*. Because birds of the nominate race are said to be greener on the underparts than *interposita*, and also *borneana*, it is evident that this form too cannot be identical with Ujung Kulon's population. The same holds good for *pallida*, known from the Natuna Islands which is said to differ from *singalensis* only in

the brown on chin, throat and foreneck, which is less intense and less sharply defined.

The differences between *sumatrana*, *borneana* and *phoenicotis*, and Ujung Kulon birds are so conspicuous and so uniform that almost all skins from the latter locality can be separated at once from the remaining males examined by me. This is not only so when looking upon six fresh birds, but also when comparing a male collected in 1932 in the neighbourhood of this area, which fits well in our fresh series. Even if considerable *post mortem* changes in the tone of the underparts should occur—which is very improbable—the differences in extent of both these colours must remain as a substantially different character. Four males from this territory have the brown on chin, throat and foreneck rather dark but none is so dark as in the two males of *phoenicotis* indicated above.

Three males borrowed from the Leiden Museum belonging to *phoenicotis* confirm the conclusion expressed above, though all these have brighter yellow underparts than the old material from the Bogor collection. Also three males of *borneana* sent on loan from Singapore confirm my conclusion. The three males of *koratensis* also borrowed from the National Museum at Singapore, differ much individually; one of them cannot be separated from *phoenicotis* or *borneana* but in both others the yellow on the underparts covers the same area as in birds from Ujung Kulon, though more sharply separated from the brown on the foreneck than they. Moreover these *koratensis* males have distinctly smaller wings than have the Ujung Kulon males.

The two juveniles (♂♀) from this area have more yellow below than a young male and female of *sumatrana* and another juvenile female of *phoenicotis*; the two recently collected immature birds, however, do not differ much from a young female collected in 1932 close to Ujung Kulon, which makes it reasonable to suppose that in this respect too there are subspecific differences as seems to be so in the upperparts which average greener in females from Ujung Kulon.

There is not much difference in size between all known subspecies of this sunbird, but our measurements point to a shorter tail in Ujung Kulon males when compared with *phoenicotis*, whereas *koratensis* has smaller wings.

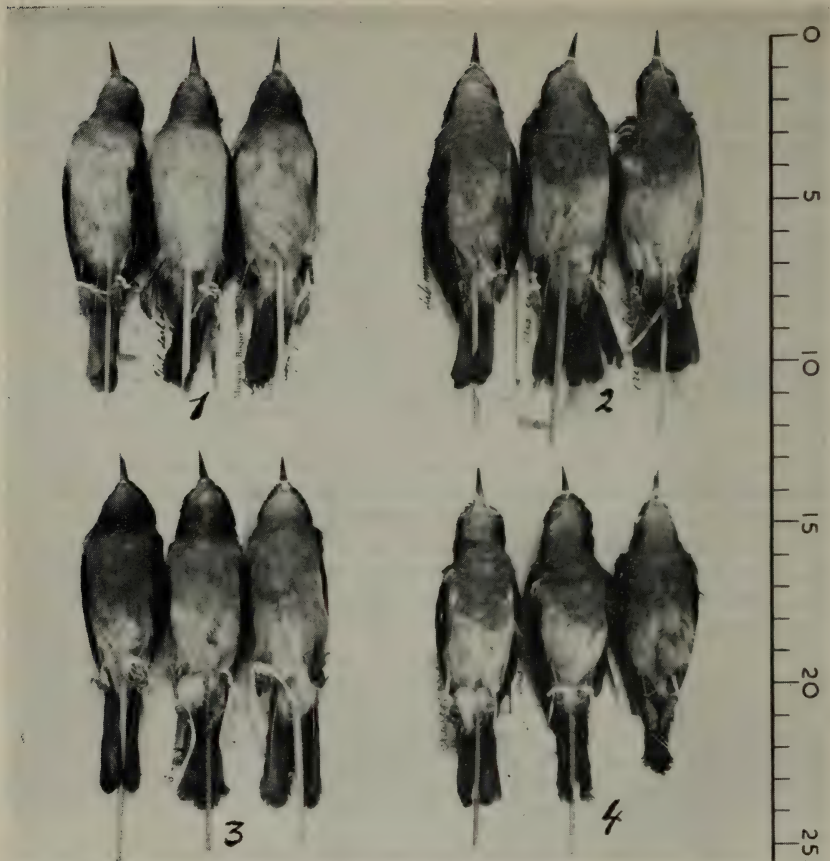
In view of the above and after the material has been seen by Dr. Amadon, I propose to separate the population of *Anthreptes singalensis* living in Java's most western part under the name

Anthreptes singalensis bantenensis subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ No. 23. 859, Ujung Kulon (West Java), Tjibunar, July 27th 1955; leg. A. Hoogerwerf.

Description: In size similar to the subspecies *sumatrana*, *borneana* and *phoenicotis* but the tail may average distinctly shorter than in *phoenicotis* wings larger than in *koratensis*.

On account of the small area of brown on chin, throat and foreneck and the very clear greenish-yellow of the lower underparts, which moreover covers a much larger area than in any of these three subspecies, representatives of the new race are strikingly different from *sumatrana*, *borneana* and *phoenicotis*.



Males of *Anthreptes singalensis*

1. *bantenensis* subsp. nov.; Ujung Kulon.
2. subsp. *sumatrana* Sumatra.
3. subsp. *phoenicotis* Java, not including the most western part.
4. subsp. *borneana* Borneo.

Though *bantenensis* seems closer to *sumatrana* and *borneana* than to *phoenicotis* regarding the yellow of the underparts, there is a considerable difference in the extent of this colour.

From *koratensis* described from Thailand, *bantenensis* differs in having more brown on throat and foreneck which colour, moreover, is separated in the subspecies *koratensis* very sharply from the yellow of the remaining underparts which is only the case in two out of the six *bantenensis* examined by me. Maybe there is also some difference in the tint of the brown and the yellow between both these races: the yellow underparts should be greener in *koratensis* but that is not so in the three skins examined by me.

In *interposita*, also known from Thailand, the brown extends further downward and birds belonging to the nominate race should be still greener below than *interposita* and are said to have much brown on chin, throat,

foreneck and chest. The subspecies *pallida*, known from the Natuna Islands, should be less yellow below and *panopsia* can only be separated from *singalensis* because of differences in the female plumage and therefore cannot be identical with the new race.

A male of the new subspecies, collected in 1932 in an area not far from Ujung Kulon, almost exactly resembles the freshly collected material and therefore I think it justified to exclude important *post-mortem* changes.

There are no certain adult females at hand but two freshly collected juveniles (♂♀) and a young female obtained in 1932, differ from immature *sumatrana* and *phoenicotis* in having more yellow below and being brighter olive-green above. On account of the absence of any brown I suppose the freshly collected female to be a juvenile; if this bird is an adult female there is another very striking difference between Ujung Kulon birds and those from more eastern areas, *viz.*, the lack of any brown on the under surface. But the juvenile of 1932 shows a trifle of brown on one side of the throat which points to similarity with the females of *phoenicotis*, unless it was wrongly sexed. The Ujung Kulon female differs from adults of *borneana* or *sumatrana* on account of the yellower underparts and the purer olive-green on the upper surface.

Distribution: The range of *bantenensis* may extend further to the east than the narrow isthmus of Ujung Kulon, because the area whence the 1932 material was obtained, is situated about 15 miles from Ujung Kulon, which may be considered the *terra typica* of the new subspecies. The name of this region is Banten which finds expression in the name of this new race.

Measurements (in mm.):

♂♂ Wing; *phoenicotis* (Java): 54, 54, 56, 56, 56, 56, 57; *phoenicotis* (Java; borrowed from Leiden): 55, 56, 57; *phoenicotis* (Java; measured by Junge, Leiden): 54, 55, 56, 56, 57, 57, 58; *bantenensis* (Ujung Kulon): 54, 55, 56, 56, 56, 57; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 53, 54, 54, 56, 56; *borneana* (Borneo): 53, 53, 54; *borneana* (Borneo; borrowed from Singapore): 55, 55, 56; *koratensis* (Thailand; borrowed from Singapore): 52, 54, 54.

Tail; *phoenicotis* (Java): 43, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48; *phoenicotis* (Java; borrowed from Leiden): 44, 44, 45; *bantenensis* (Ujung Kulon): 41, 41, 42, 42, 42, 43; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 39, 41, 42, 44, 45; *borneana* (Borneo): 38, 39, 40; *borneana* (Borneo; borrowed from Singapore): 42, 43, 43; *koratensis* (Thailand; borrowed from Singapore): 40, 43, 44.

Culmen; *phoenicotis* (Java): 12.2, 12.2, 12.5, 12.9, 13, 13.2; *phoenicotis* (Java; borrowed from Leiden): 12, 12.5, 12.9; *bantenensis* (Ujung Kulon): 12, 12.1, 13, 13.2; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 11.9, 12.1, 12.9, 13.1; *borneana* (Borneo): 11.1, 11.8; *borneana* (Borneo; borrowed from Singapore): 12, 13, 13.8; *koratensis* (Thailand; borrowed from Singapore): 12, 12.8, 12.9.

Max., min. and average measurements:

	<i>phoenicotis</i> Java	<i>phoenicotis</i> Java (ex Leiden)	<i>phoenicotis</i> Java (measured by Junge)	<i>bantenensis</i> Ujung Kulon
Wing:	54-57	55-57	54-58	54-57
	55.57	56	56.14	55.67
	43-48	44-45		41-43
Tail:	45.29	44.33		41.83
	12.2-13.2	12-12.9		12-13.2
Culmen:	12.67	12.47		12.58

	<i>sumatrana</i> Sumatra	<i>borneana</i> Borneo	<i>borneana</i> Borneo (ex Singapore)	<i>koratensis</i> Thailand (ex Singapore)
Wing:	53-56	53-54	55-56	52-54
	54.60	53.33	55.33	53.33
	39-45	38-40	42-43	40-44
Tail:	42.20	39	42.67	42.33
	11.9-13.1	11.1-11.8	12-13.8	12-12.9
Culmen:	12.50	11.45	12.93	12.57

♀♀ Wing: *phoenicotis* (Java): 52, 53, 54; *bantenensis*, juv. (Udjung Kulon): 54; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 52, 53, 53;

Tail: *phoenicotis* (Java): 38, 40, 41; *bantenensis*, juv. (Udjung Kulon): 45; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 36, 39, 42;

Culmen; *phoenicotis* (Java): 11.9, 12.1, 13.2; *bantenensis*, juv. (Udjung Kulon): 11.5; *sumatrana* (Sumatra): 12, 12.3, 13.2.

Max., min. and average measurements:

	<i>phoenicotis</i> Java	<i>bantenensis</i> Udjung Kulon	<i>sumatrana</i> Sumatra
Wing:	52-54	54	52-53
	53		52.67
	38-41		36-42
Tail:	39.67	45	39
	11.9-13.2		12-13.20
Culmen:	12.40	11.50	12.50

Reference:

- ¹ Boden Kloss, C. On the Ruby-Cheek with descriptions of three new subspecies; *Journal Federated Malay States Museums*, 10, 1921, p. 208-10.

Subspecific variation in *Macronyx ameliae* de Tarragon

by P. A. CLANCEY

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The decorative Pink-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae* de Tarragon has an extended and rather disrupted distribution in eastern, central and south-eastern Africa, from the highlands of Kenya south-east to the Natal coast. Variation in this terrestrial species is generally conceded as being slight, and opinion among systematists is about equally divided as to the desirability or otherwise of recognising races. Those workers who do admit geographical races recognise two subspecies, namely, *M.a.ameliae* de Tarragon, 1845: Durban, Natal, and *M.a.wintoni* Sharpe, 1891: Kitoto Plain, Kavirondo, Kenya.

As is often the case in grass-haunting pipits, study of variation in *M.ameliae* is made difficult by the abrasive action coarse grass has on the plumage, and the colour leaching effected by the intense African sun. In this longclaw the issue is further complicated by the presence of a protracted nuptial moult in the male, in which the dorsal plumage is apparently